

Bill Strongly Supported By Texas Teacher, School Board, & Administrator Organizations

(Washington, D.C.) – [U.S. Representative Chet Edwards](#) today supported final passage of legislation to save 14,500 teacher and education jobs in Texas including 401 education jobs in District 17 according to estimates from the Department of Education. District 17 school districts, which serve over 150,000 children, will receive over \$20 million in federal funding under the bill.

Congressman Chet Edwards said, *“This fully paid-for bill will prevent 14,500 Texas teacher and education layoffs, and reduce the need to increase school class sizes and local property taxes. Even in tough times, we have a responsibility to protect the quality of education for our children’s future.”*

Specifically, the bill includes over \$800 million in federal education funds for the state of Texas and requires the Governor of Texas to apply for the funding and assure that state education funding is not cut more than other state programs through 2013. The Governor made a similar assurance last year in applying to receive billions in federal Recovery Act funds, which the state then used to balance its budget. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office; the bill reduces the deficit by \$1.4 billion over 10 years.

Congressman Chet Edwards said, *“The fundamental principle at stake is whether federal education funds should be used for Texas schoolchildren or state slush funds. I agree with Texas’ teachers, school boards, and administrators who believe that these federal education dollars should be used for education and not siphoned off for a state slush fund or non-educational purposes. For those who say these education dollars should be diverted to non-education purposes, my question is how does that help Texas schools? Suggesting that taking education dollars out of education helps our schools simply fails the test of common sense.”*

Brock Gregg, Governmental Relations Director for Association of Texas Professional Educators has said, *“This funding isn’t about politics in Washington or Austin; it’s about children and getting the resources they need into their classrooms. Gov. Perry is merely being asked to pledge not to cut education funding more than any other part of the state budget. Unfortunately, even though the state is predicted to be nearly \$18 billion short on revenue, the governor is playing politics with education funding that Texas needs. The reality is that the pledge the governor has been asked to make is no different in effect than the pledge he made when taking \$16 billion in federal stimulus dollars during the last session.”*

Jackie Lain, Associate Executive Director, Texas Association of School Boards said, *“It’s cruel to play politics with teachers’ jobs and livelihoods. □ Increasingly, Texas districts are already being forced to deplete their fund balances for daily operating expenses. This is not a viable, long-term financial strategy. Districts have already laid off teachers, and at some point soon, they simply won’t have the money to keep paying the remaining teachers.”*

The following Texas education groups, whose membership exceeds over 300,000 educators, principals, and administrators, support the bill:

Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association

Texas Association of School Boards

Association for Texas Professional Educators

Texas Association of School Administrators

Texas Classroom Teachers Association

Texas American Federation of Teachers

Texas State Teachers Association

SOURCE: <http://edlabor.house.gov/blog/2010/08/teachers-jobs-saved-by-hr-1586.shtml>